



ACTRON vol. 1

1986 - ?

R. Earles penciled the last panel and then smoothed down his packet of pages. Finally finished.

He had been observed.

His pages were snatched up. The teacher sneered as she surveyed his work. Weak anatomy, poor rendering. All in all, insufficient quality to warrant a bending of the rules. ACTRON #3 would languish in the art cabinet for several months, molding beneath companion copies of SUPERMAN #17 and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #250. Earles wouldn't get them back until the end of the year.

And then, ACTRON #3 was published.

It actually sold. Classmates exchanged lunch money for photocopied mini-comics. Earles recognized an opportunity and re-invested his profits into his burgeoning TURBO GRAPHICS studio. At one point, more than twenty employees were filling out the pages of TG's publications.

And then came the crash.

In the years since the debut of the TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES, the comics industry had been flooded with a glut of black & white titles, each new book seemingly of lesser quality than the last. Earles' line of affordable comic books arrived just as



ACTRON vol. 1, #3 (1987)



Thomas Wright's first on-panel appearance, from ACTRON vol. 1, #3 (1986)

the bubble finally burst. The reader is invited to draw his or her own conclusions about TG's contribution to the collapse.

But *ACTRON* persisted. New issues were produced, if not circulated. Since 1986, Earles has apparently churned out over two hundred full-length episodes of THOMAS BRIGHT's story. None of these pages have ever been seen by the general public.

Until now.

Dear reader, you hold in your hands the final instalment of the



Actron suit in action, from ACTRON vol. 3, #1 (1986)

ACTRON saga

An issue that has taken four years to complete. Several times, despite his sterling reputation for punctuality and professionalism, I was certain Earles was about to crap out. With less than thirty pages to go, he was simply not getting a lot of work done. Months would elapse with no new posts to his blog. The pages no one had seen were actually the pages no one had drawn.

It is likely that the coloring of Pete Torms is what finally pulled him through.

The evidence presented here speaks for itself. Earles was obviously re-invigorated by Torms' contributions to the book. The aesthetic shift is self-evident, and yet wholly appropriate to the material.

Hell, I'm even willing to take credit for it myself.

Stanley Lieber
New York, December '10

1998



1. **ANALYTICAL**
 2. **CONCENTRATION**
 3. **ANALYSIS**

**WORDS & PICTURES:
STANLEY LIEBER**

**COLORS:
PETE TOMS**

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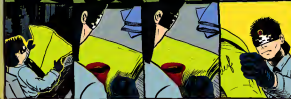
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HALF/DEAD IS THE
SON OF A SPECIAL
FORCES VETERAN...

... A SURVIVOR OF THE
9/11 ATTACKS OF 1981

A CHILD, HALF-CRUSHED BY DEBRIS



I THINK
THERE'S STILL
SOMEONE
IN THERE!

NO. THIS
AREA HAS
ALREADY
BEEN
CLEARED.

THE TRAUMA OF THE EVENT
TRIGGERED HIS LATENT TELE-
KINETIC ABILITIES...



THINGS
ARE STILL
BLOWING
UP

... WHICH HE NOW EXPLOITS TO HOLD THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIS BODY
TOGETHER. A SORT OF PROTEST *PIECE DE RESISTANCE*.

HALF/DEAD'S FATHER DISTINGUISHED
HIMSELF IN AFGHANISTAN...

BUT DID NOT SURVIVE HIS FIRST
TOUR OF DUTY IN IRAQ.



GET OUT
FROM OUR COUNTRY
مخرج من بلادنا



NO BLOG
POSTS,
OHAY?

RELAX.

THE BOY HAS WHAT SOME MIGHT
DESCRIBE AS A CHIP ON HIS SH-
OULDER ABOUT AMERICA'S
MIDDLE EAST POLICY...

NOW, A CHILD REBUILT IN A SUP-
REMELY POWERFUL CYBORG BODY



WE'VE
PLAY
SECTION
IT?

AND
UNLIMITED
PRE-PAID
CALLING
CARDS!

ER...
OKAY...



HEAR
ARRG
NHNH...

HE ROUTINELY CAUSES EXTENSIVE
PROPERTY DAMAGE TO THE
CITY HE CALLS HOME.



WHAT'S OUR
INTEREST IN
THIS GUY?



IT'S AN HONEST
QUESTION.

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

HE'S TRAVELING A
SMALL TOWN
THROUGH
LOWER
MICHIGAN



WELL,
YES.

BUT IN TERMS
OF OUR ORIGINAL
INTEREST

AN INTERVIEW
DOESN'T MAKE
ANY SENSE
TO ME



HOWEVER, OBVIOUSLY
YOU'RE FROM THE
HEART NORTH. YOU
KNOW FROM WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT.

A *friend* is a REFUGE FROM
THEIR *own* and *their* *own*
IN *their*. HE HAS BEEN A
SUCCESSFUL TIME-TRIP BACK
TO THE PAST. HE'S
HE NOW KNOWS *his* *own*
ON THE *other* *side* *of*
HE THIS *other*. *He* *is* *not*
ANYONE *else* *is* *not*
IN THE BACK OF THE *head*.



YES, MY *friend*.

BUT I DON'T *know*
ANY OF *them*. AND *that*
IS WHAT *is* *not* *clear* *to* *me*.

ARMORED CAR



LET GO LAD!

JUST HOLD ON!



I AM
STUCK
HERE!

IT APPEARS I AM
THE ONLY ONE WHO
REMAINS! AND ONLY
I REMAIN!











HALF-DEAD!

*WHAT PROBABLY
IS THE STORY
WITH ALL THESE
ZOMBIES?*

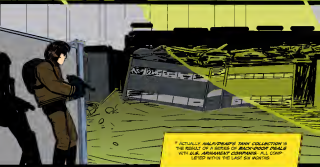
*THE COLLECT-
-UP THEM FROM
YOUR HEADS OF
OPPORTUNITY!*

*OUNDS LIKE
A LOT OF
MONEY!*

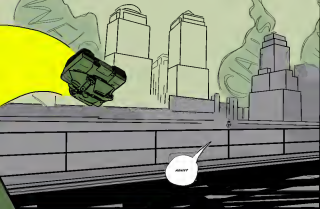


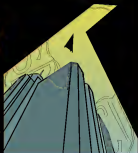
TOO!

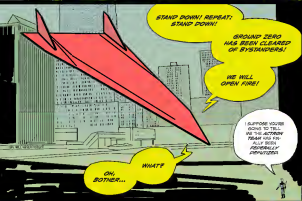
*PERSONS NOT
REQUIRED!*



** ACTUALLY, HALF-DEAD'S ZOMBIE COLLECTION IS
THE RESULT OF A SERIES OF BACKROOM DEALS
WITH SOME JAPANESE COMPANIES. ALL COMP
LETTER WITHIN THE LAST SIX MONTHS*

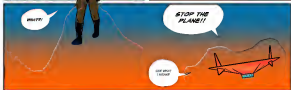


















NEXT: THEIR STRUGGLE

ACTRON

Real Name: Thomas A. Bright, Jr.

Occupation: Adventurer (occasional)

Identity/Class: Human

Legal status: citizen of the United States with no criminal record

Aliases: Tom, Tommy, TARD

Marital status: Married

Known relatives: Eva Bright (wife), Piro (brother), Violet Bright (sister), Thomas Bright, Sr. (father), Margaret Bright (mother)

Group affiliations: Actron Team

Base of operations: Chrysler Building, New York City

First appearance: ACTRON vol. 1, #1 (1999)

Other appearances: ACTRON vol. 1, #1-3 (1999-1997), ACTRON vol. 2, #4-10 (1998-1999), ACTRON GRAPHIC NOVEL (1998), ACTRON vol. 3, #1-6 (1999), HOUSE OF HERESY #1 (1999), ACTRON CITY vol. 1 (1999)

History: THOMAS BRIGHT's parents both operated as agents of the United States Government throughout the 1950s and 1960s. MARGARET BRIGHT's work in a covert radiology lab is thought to have contributed to the development of superhuman abilities in all three of the BRIGHT children. THOMAS was inducted into the youth C.I.A. training program in August, 1988, and graduated the following September, shattering all previous records for academic progress. In spite of his remarkable progress, he never became an active field agent, preferring instead to enter the private sector. Since the early 1990s, THOMAS has served as leader of the ACTRON TEAM, operating out of the Chrysler Building, New York City.

Height: 5' 1"

Weight: 190 lbs

Eyes: Blue

Hair: Black

Known superhuman powers: Flight, invulnerability, class 100 strength

Weapons: The ACTRON armor consists of a carbon nanofiber outer shell, an array of advanced particle beam weaponry and a unique biomechanical control interface that links with THOMAS' mind.

Accessories: THOMAS wears a custom visor attachment which serves as a real-time personal interface to THE GREEN.



PIRO

Real Name: Piotr

Occupation: Freelance agent, private

Identity/Class: Human

Legal status: Officer of the United States

with no criminal record

Marital status: Single

Known relatives: Adria (brother), Eva

Bright, (sister-in-law)

Group affiliations: Action Team, C.I.A.

Base of operations: The Chrysler Build-

ing, New York City, The Ship

First appearance: ACTION vol. 1, #3

Other appearances: ACTION vol. 2, #4-

10 (1985-1986), ACTION GRAPHIC NOVA

II (1988), ACTION vol. 3, #1-6 (1990),

HOUSE OF HORROR #1 (1994), ACTION

CITY vol. 1 (1998)

History: PIRO is a refugee from the east of the world. In 4095, he initiated a successful time-jump back to the year 1995, where he now shares leadership of the ACTION team with his twin brother, THOMAS BRIGHT. Prior to his time-jump, PIRO served as chief security officer for PLINTH MOLD INDUSTRIES. As early as 1966, PIRO is known to have been a C.I.A. asset in charge of training new recruits in hand-to-hand combat. By the late 1970s he was assigned to monitor the emerging super-powered population of New York City. His current operational status in C.I.A. is not known at this time.

Height: 6' 1"

Weight: 195 lbs

Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Known superhuman powers: Photographic reflexes.

Weapons: PIRO has received extensive training in all NATO and WARSAW Pact small arms. He also retains unexplained access to state-of-the-art portable beam weaponry, presumably procured through the United States government. ■



SUPER-SONIC

Real Name: John W. Ratcliff

Occupation: Post-Enforcer

Identity/Class: Human

Legal status: citizen of the United States with no criminal record

Aliases: John Alcmena (pseudonym)

Marital status: Single

Known relatives: Hercules (ancestor)

Group affiliations: ACTRON, INC., Greek Pantheon

Base of operations: The Chrysler Building, New York City

First appearance: ACTRON vol. 1, #1 (1993)

Other appearances: ACTRON vol. 1, #2-3 (1993-1997) ACTRON vol. 2, #4-10

(1993-1999) ACTRON GRAPHIC NOVEL

(1998) ACTRON vol. 3, #1-6 (1999), HOUSE OF HERESY #1 (1994) ACTRON CITY

vol. 1 (1998)

History: Little is known about SUPER-SONIC's background, apart from his apparent status as a descendant of the Greek Pantheon. He was recruited into the ACTRON TEAM by PIRO while living as a resident poet in Venice, Italy.

Commentary: JOHN ALCMENA's poetry in the Italian language has garnered numerous awards in the European literary press.

His presence on the ACTRON TEAM has been credited with the group's immense popularity with the Italian media.

Height: 5' 4"

Weight: 360 lbs

Eyes: Green

Hair: Brown

Known superhuman powers: Invulnerability, Class 100 strength

Weapons: SUPER-SONIC wields a mystical sword of solid gold, which is sheathed in an unknown substance that renders it one of the most durable objects known to man. On occasion he has used the sword to slice through industrial steel with little evident difficulty.

Accessories: SUPER-SONIC's solid gold belt and gauntlets are thought to be somehow connected to his invulnerability and strength. His left gauntlet contains a digital watch beneath one of its jewel facings.



HALF/DEAD

Real Name: Dr. Fred Drift

Occupation: Terrorist, robotics engineer

Identity/Class: Human

Legal status: citizen of the United States with a criminal record

Aliases: None known

Marital status: Single

Known relatives: Father (U.S. military, killed in action)

Group affiliation: ACLU, Skeptic Society, Delib'ray International

Base of operations: New York City, Baghdad, Riker's Island

First appearance: ACTRON vol. 3, #5 (1990)

Other appearances: ACTRON vol. 3, #5 (1990)

History: DR. FRED DRIFT is the son of a Special Forces veteran, and a survivor of the 9/11 attacks of 1981. Abandoned by overburdened rescue workers, the trauma of the event triggered his latent telekinetic abilities, which he leveraged to dig himself out of the rubble. DRIFT's father went on to distinguish himself in Afghanistan, but did not survive his final tour of duty in Iraq. DRIFT has what one could describe as a chip on his shoulder about American interventionism in the Middle East. Today a brilliant child in a supremely powerful cyborg body, he routinely causes extensive property damage to the city he calls home. Commenter: HALF/DEAD's intelligence is quite handy off the scale. Within two years of his father's death, DRIFT had completed his PhD in advanced robotics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In a short period of time he accepted a position as MIT's youngest ever tenured professor. It is unknown if campus politics played a role in his eventual adoption of the HALF/DEAD alter-ego.

Height: 5' 11"

Weight: 250 lbs

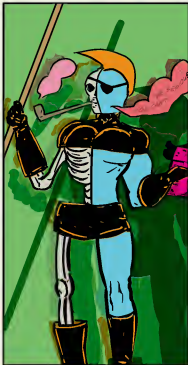
Eyes: None

Hair: None

Known superhuman powers: Telekinetics

Weapons: HALF/DEAD wields an energy staff that serves as a targeting focus for his telekinetic force blasts.

Accessories: As a part of his regular costume, HALF/DEAD wears a clip-on "mohawk" hair wig. ■





'CRASH ORIGIN'

Stanley
Lieber



www.dailymotion.com